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Feb. 28, 2003
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NEWS RELEASE

UD STUDENTS AMONG FIRST TO DISCUSS 'AMERICANS' ROLE IN THE WORLD' IN A NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM

DAYTON, Ohio — Nearly 200 University of Dayton political science students will be among the first in the U.S. to deliberate "Americans' Role in the World" in a National Issues Forum from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, in the Kennedy Union.

Adopting the theme from By the People, a 16-month initiative launched in January by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions to foster national conversation on America's role in the world, the National Issues Forums Institute recently added the theme to its list of sponsored topics.

The University of Dayton event, sponsored by its political science department, Raymond L. Fitz Center for Leadership in Community and the Miami Valley Issues Forum, will be only the second National Issues Forum on this topic nationwide. The inaugural forum took place Feb. 27 at West Virginia State College, and a third is scheduled March 7 at the University of Montana.

Though brand new, the topic will likely remain on the NIF issues list for years to come, said Jason Pierce, assistant professor of political science and forum coordinator.

To prepare for discussion, students are currently reviewing the newly published issues book on the topic. The book introduces the general theme, then proposes four different discussion "approaches" to answering the question, what is America's role in the world? Approaches for discussion are: using military power to ensure international stability, promoting the development of democracy in other nations, promoting free trade and international economic competition, and spearheading collaborative, multinational efforts to address long-term global problems such as pollution, famine and AIDS.

The forum will begin with a moderated 30-minute, all-group session, then students will break into smaller groups for deliberation. The session will conclude with a second all-group session, and students will fill out a detailed survey on the forum that will be sent to NIFI.

"This is a perfect time for UD students to deliberate this topic, particularly given the challenges we're facing with Iraq," said Pierce, who has served as a moderator in other forums and has "seen the profound impact this type of deliberation can have on participants."

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Pierce said he hopes the forum will have a similar impact on UD students. "I hope they will become better educated on the topic and better understand the options there are in terms of implementing policy. I also hope they'll be able to back away from the front-page headlines and realize that our engagement with Iraq is only part of the broader question — what is America's role in the world?"

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For media interviews, contact **Jason Pierce** at (937) 229-2596 or via e-mail at Jason.Pierce@notes.udayton.edu.

National Issues Forum Schedule

Tuesday, March 4:

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| 5 p.m. | All participants will meet for an information session in Kennedy Union Torch Lounge |
| 5:30 p.m. | Students will break out into smaller groups for deliberation in Kennedy Union rooms 253, 312, 313 and 331 |
| 7 p.m. | All participants will meet again for a final session in Kennedy Union Torch Lounge |